

# FLOATED LIKE DUCKS

Kearsarge and Kentucky in  
Their Element.

NO HITCH OF ANY KIND

An Immense Throng Witness  
the Launching.

INCIDENTS OF THE DAY

Kentuckians Smash Bottles of Whiskey  
Against the Monster Hull of the  
Battleship Named for  
the Blue Grass  
State.

A more successful event is not recorded in the history of ship launching than that which occurred at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, when the prow of the battleship Kearsarge, freed from the bands which held her to the spot on which she was born, slid away to the rippling waters of the James and was borne far out upon the bosom of the stream. Over 20,000 people, heedless of the weather, thronged the yard and forced their way as far as they could toward the big ship, while several thousand others looked on from vessels in the river. When the Kearsarge began to



MRS. WINSLOW.

move they sent up a shout the like of which has never before been heard here. On the stand, almost under the Kearsarge's gun barrel, the National Marine band played patriotic airs until ten minutes before the signal was given to saw the bonds which held the ship to the ways, when the notes of a song as familiar to the colonists as blue grass or Old Kentucky Pepper floated out upon the air and brought forth a storm of applause. It was the "Old Kentucky Home." As the vessel started, Mrs. Winslow, wife of the Governor, and Commander Winslow, of the navy, raised the handsomely decorated bottle containing champagne and as she dashed it against the steel bow of the ship said in a clear voice, "I christen thee Kearsarge." In less than half a minute the Kearsarge was in the water.

The Kentucky was scheduled to leave the ways at 11 o'clock, but it was thirty minutes later before she joined the Kearsarge. She was borne noiselessly along the heavy timbers which formed the track for her cradle and as she struck the water turned her bow up stream. The two vessels were picked up by the tugs Helen and Luck and towed to the dock, where they will receive their machinery and be prepared for their armament. The christening of the Kentucky was watched with eager interest, not only by the representatives of the Blue Grass State, but by hundreds of others, the reason for it being that Miss Christine Bradley, daughter of the governor of Kentucky, was to break upon her bow a bottle of water drawn from the spring at which Abraham Lincoln used to kneel and slake his thirst. Whatever the charming young lady who did the honors of the occasion may think about



MISS BRADLEY.

the matter, she performed the duty assigned to her in a most admirable manner. Doubtless Miss Bradley knew that notwithstanding the cold water program in which she was the central figure there were those near her on the stand who would not fail to observe the ancient and honorable custom in a manner worthy of the patriotic sons of Old Kentucky.

ON THE STAND.  
Tickets of admission were necessary to view the launching of the ships from the stand. But notwithstanding this fact, several hundred men and women soon found their way to the high platform. Conspicuous among those who stood near the little box-like structure draped with bunting and rising two or three feet above the floor of the stand, occupied by Mrs. Winslow, was General Miles, who clustered around him were

Senators and Representatives in Congress from many States of the Union, men wearing the uniforms of officers in the army and navy, and others whose names are familiar to the good people of the Old Dominion. Mrs. Winslow, becomingly attired for the occasion, was at her post some time before the hour set for the launching of the Kearsarge. As she stood on the little platform ready to grasp the prettily adorned bottle which swung gently in the breeze, scores of admiring eyes were fixed upon her. Around were gathered many well known people with whom she had been pleasantly until the quick, sharp taps of the workmen under the ship as they dove the light wedges under the bow to their places, gave warning that the time was near at hand for the Kearsarge to leave the ways. It was at this time that the band struck up the "Old Kentucky Home" and brought forth from the other end of the platform a cheer that the breeze carried eight or ten miles away toward the blue water of the sea, in which, it may be, some day, the ship to which Mrs. Winslow gave a name, may become as famous as her state's deer. The pecking of the wedges was followed by the swishing of the saws as they were sent back and forth by the arms of four sturdy workmen. A slight snap, a shout, the rattle of broken glass, a flood of music mingling with the voices of the multitude, and a beautiful scene was before the eyes of a woman crying, "I christen thee Kearsarge," and the stately ship, her tall masts barely quivering as she moved down the ways with hundreds of men and women looking like midges on her decks, had been baptized.

It is doubtful if such a scene as that which followed the launching of the Kearsarge has ever before been witnessed on a launching occasion. Congressmen in tall hats, army and navy men in their dignified, defied the damp northwester and expressed their devotion in prolonged hurrahs. And as it was not enough they waved their hats high above their bare heads and stamped their feet, they waved their hands and their faces the picture of supreme satisfaction. When all this ended, a youth, named Joseph McDonald, clad in a beautiful suit of blue and gold, and with a hammer and tongs hanging at his side, approached Mrs. Winslow and announced that he appeared before her as the spokesman of the shipbuilders and Dry Dock Company, and that his mission was to present to her as a token of esteem, on behalf of his fellow workmen, a beautiful bottle of champagne. Then with his little hands he placed the present in those of the lady, who responded happily and appropriately to his speech. Mrs. Winslow, amidst the din of many pretty bouquets, and was heartily congratulated upon the manner in which she had carried out her part of the program.

An hour and thirty minutes elapsed before the Kentucky started for the water. The bottle of champagne was never opened, but the delay patiently. There was nothing else to do. As fast as they could, Mr. Dougherty's busy workmen were putting the vessel in her element, the monster man-of-war and making her snug in the cradle in which she was to take her first ride in the deep. To make things worse the chilling breeze that had blown all morning from the coast, began to caper along at a much freer rate, forcing men and women to draw their coats and wraps closer about them and seek shelter for their little ones in places where the wind could not reach. The crowd on the Kentucky end of the platform was larger than that which gathered at the bow of the Kearsarge. But the difference was easily accounted for. Miss Bradley had decidedly the advantage of Mrs. Winslow in the matter of colonels. The Governor's daughter, attended by several members of the gubernatorial staff and a number of distinguished ladies from the Blue Grass State, ascended the steps of the platform and stationed herself within easy reach of the bottle of champagne. Her movements after the Kearsarge slid off the ways. Miss Bradley's father stood near her and among the ladies who made up the company were Misses Chastelain, Broome, Stark, Gatewood and Bates. Noted not only in Kentucky, but in many other States of the Union for their beauty, they attracted much attention and those who knew them were kept busy pointing them out to inquirers. Notwithstanding the discomforts incident to the situation, they passed the time pleasantly. There seemed to be a general bouquet in the hands of almost every man and woman on the little platform built for Miss Bradley, giving it the appearance of an immense floral urn in which youth and beauty were about to engage in a contest with nature for honors. Surrounding Miss Bradley were a good full score of Kentuckians, with the purpose fixed in their minds that a ship to be named after their State should be baptized with something stronger than even the water from the spring from which Abraham Lincoln drank. Accordingly each was provided with a clay glass bottle, made in exact imitation of the larger ones—those that are put to practical use in Kentucky. Each bore a neatly printed label, conspicuous upon which were the words "Old Kentucky Pepper." A jolly fellow from the northwest corner of the

State stood near the writer, his left hand thrust into his coat pocket. "I'm a left-handed man," said he, "but I have never been beaten at throwing stones. I can knock a hog down every crack at ten paces."

"But I'm going to hit that ship, look here," and he drew the little bottle from his pocket. "I'm going to hit her with this—and there are others." He laughed as he returned the Pepper to his pocket and prepared himself to make good his words. At 11:30 Miss Bradley was notified that the Kentucky was about to slide down the ways. She grasped the bottle, held it firmly in her hand nearly three minutes, when the mighty mass of iron and steel began to move, and then dashed it against the bow, at the same time pronouncing distinctly the name of the vessel. Simultaneously a volley of the small bottles of "Old Kentucky Pepper" pelted the ship starboard and port. As she rode somewhat slower than the Kearsarge, but not less successfully, toward the water, the well charged projectiles from the inland forts of Kentucky broke on her steel sides. As before, the people shouted, the band once more played "Old Kentucky Home," the steam train in the stream turned their whistles loose, all ending in a grand outburst of rejoicing when the Kentucky rested softly on the bosom of the James, queen of the waterways, the gift of the Newport News W. C. T. U. to Miss Bradley, the presentation address being by Miss Louise Hopkins. The Kentuckians cheered the christening of the vessel and a gold medal, the daughter of the Governor, and as heartily applauded those who made presentation speeches.

## SCENE FROM THE STAND.

Never before has so large a crowd assembled in this city. Looking from the stand one beheld a sea of heads in every direction. Thousands occupied the space between the ways on which the Kearsarge stood and the battleship Illinois, while on the other side the workmen on all the great ways and windows of large buildings adjacent to the scene of the launching were filled with people. Even the high ways, and perhaps the thousands of travel, were utilized as points from which to view the plunge of the new ships. On the roof of the frame shed an enterprising photographer planted himself and took views of the multitudinous around the vessel. At half past 10 o'clock the military arrived and marched, headed by the band, to the rear side of the Kentucky. They followed them, pushed their way through those already in the yard, and made themselves comfortable at a long table, where they had been patiently waiting for nearly two hours to see the ships launched. After the Kearsarge reached the water the throng rushed to the north side of the ways, and the crowd of thousands gathered to the greasy track on which the Kearsarge had ridden to the water in order to view the flight of the Kentucky. Out in the distance a hundred or more sailing craft, each with as many passengers as it could carry, were huddled together, but yet in such position as to enable those on board to view the launch. Shortly after 11 o'clock the Old Dominion steamer Hampton Roads rounded the main dock of the yard. As she came in, with hundreds of men and women on board, her engines pressed to her port side and to them on the stand it seemed that she would turn under. Below the steamer Newport News and other large boats lay the cruiser Brooklyn, the monitor USS Monitor, and many expected that the warships would fire a salute to the Kearsarge and Kentucky and Kearsarge were launched, but they continued their voyage to long and loud blasts of their whistles. Hundreds of people remained in the yard and waited the shops and other places of the yard.

## GUESTS ON THE STAND.

The launching stands were crowded to their utmost capacity, at least 200 people being packed like sardines on the platform. Among the distinguished persons were: Governors W. O. Bradley and J. H. Rogers, Senators Calhoun, Fairbanks, Lodge, Aldrich, Jones (of Arkansas), and Spooner, and Representative Bailey, the Democratic floor leader in the House of Representatives. The uppermost question at the conference was the Maine disaster, and the anticipated action of the President in laying the report before Congress. The conference

## THE COURT'S REPORT

It Reaches Washington at Last.

TO BE CONSIDERED TODAY

Emergency War Measures Follow Each Other in Constant Succession, Unexampled Activity in All Official Quarters.

(By Telegraph.)  
WASHINGTON, March 24.—The last day before the arrival of the report of the Maine court of inquiry was one of unexampled activity in all official quarters. Advises came early that the Spanish torpedo flotilla had sailed from the Canaries for Porto Rico, and from this moment the most energetic warlike measures followed one another in constant succession. The movement of this fleet had been watched with the keenest interest, as it was felt to involve the honor of the United States government to protest against the movement as of a hostile character. Immediately on the receipt of a dispatch from one of our naval attaches abroad, briefly announcing the sailing of the fleet, the fact was made known to the President, and an earnest conference was held between him and Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt. The seriousness of the movement was fully considered, and the President was advised that naval strategists regarded it as essential that this torpedo fleet should not be allowed to reach western waters. What, if any, conclusion was reached is not known. Later in the day the Spanish minister, Senor Polo y Bernabe, called at the state department and spent some time with the Secretary of State. He was accompanied by a Spanish minister, both of whom maintained the strictest reticence regarding their conference.

The first was this announcement by Secretary Long, indicating the placing of our squadron and fleet on a war footing.

Admiral Seward has been granted leave, very much to the regret of the navy department, on account of his heavy duties.

Captain Sampson has been made commander of the fleet at Key West. Captain Evans has been ordered to take command of the battleship Iowa. The orders to the squadron in Hampton Roads have not yet been issued. Although the announcement did not do so, it soon became known that the orders to the fleet were to be to command the "Flying Squadron."

This announcement was recognized as of unusual importance at this juncture. Admiral Seward has been in command of the fleet since the disaster of the critical period of the Maine disaster. Captain Sampson has been in command of the Iowa, but more recently has been conspicuous before the public as president of the Maine court of inquiry. Captain Bailey, Evans is better known as "Fighting Bob."

The next important movement was a dispatch from the navy department, advising that the navy had purchased a fleet of eight steam yachts and four steam cruisers, presumably at or near New York, for use in the auxiliary fleet. The purchase of these vessels was a great success, the number of lots sold bringing the sum of \$5,115. The purchases were mostly Richmond and Hampton people. It was decided to adjourn the sale at 10 o'clock this morning, when the rest of the lots will be disposed of.

showed that the President still hoped for peace, but that there would be no other alternative.

The President said to several of his cabinet today, in discussing the situation, that he would do everything consistent with the honor and dignity of the country to avert war and he still believed war could be averted. He also said that he believed the government of Spain was as anxious for peace as we were, but at the same time he did not hesitate to admit the gravity of the situation. The President frankly acknowledged that he believed that the report of the board of inquiry will find that the Maine was blown up from the outside. His program has been definitely decided upon. It is his purpose to treat the blowing up of the Maine as an incident. The report of the board will be sent to Congress on Monday with a very brief message, relating the events leading up to that point and informing Congress that the facts contained in the report have been cabled to Madrid to be laid before the Spanish government by Minister Woodford. No demand will be made upon Spain, but the laying of the facts before the Spanish government will be equivalent to calling upon Spain for an explanation, and such action as she may deem proper. It is the purpose of the President to order the report and message to the committee on foreign affairs, without debate, and to this purpose it is believed the Democrats of the House have acquiesced, reserving the right to demand action if a report from the committee is too long delayed.

Much will then depend upon Spain's attitude. If she refuses to accept the report, the President who believe that the time the report is sent to Congress it will drop out as a factor in the situation. The second part of the President's program reaches the Maine question and involves intervention on humanitarian grounds within a week or ten days after the report of the board of inquiry is received. It will be necessary to relieve the starvation in Cuba and upon Spain's acquiescence in or objection to the act will depend peace or war. A provision in the bill to the effect that in his opinion the next two weeks would determine whether it would be. Such information as exists here leads those close to the President to believe that the Spanish government will go to any length it dares to preserve peace. The Queen Regent is especially anxious to prevent war, and it is believed that it can without jeopardizing its own existence and the survival of the present Spanish dynasty.

With the report in Washington tonight, it will be laid before the cabinet at the regular meeting at 11 o'clock tomorrow, and at that time the President and his advisers will begin the process of weighing the conclusions reached and determining the action that is to be taken.

The formal plan of its transmission to Congress was made up long ago, and it was before them, the President and his advisers for the first time will be in a position to outline the character of the message which is to accompany the submission of the report to Congress and to arrange definite plan of detailed procedure, which as yet has not been worked out.

The navy department was advised today of the sailing of the monitor Terrible from New York for Key West, the arrival of the Texas at Hampton Roads, and the Monitor and Monterey at San Francisco. The battleship Texas came up from Key West, making an extremely quick run for a vessel of her class.

The Spanish authorities here have been informed that some time ago Captain Sigsbee asked permission to use the monitor Terrible in the destruction of the wreck of the Maine.

This was refused by Captain General Blanco, for the reason it is officially explained, that as there are evil disposed persons who insist that the Maine was blown up from external causes, the Spanish authorities do not want the wreck destroyed, as it affords all the evidence obtainable as to the actual cause of the disaster.

## Club Receive Visitors.

Both the C. P. Huntington Republican League and the Newport News League of the morning "open house" yesterday, receiving visiting Republicans and many men prominent in the party called at both places. Among those received by the Newport News League were: Hon. P. F. McCall, of Norfolk; Hon. William H. Fairless, of Portsmouth; Hon. Harry Laidley, of Washington; Dr. Richard A. Wise, of South; Hon. Colonel William Lamb, of Richmond; Hon. P. F. McCall, of Albemarle, and Commonwealth's Attorney F. S. Collier, of Hampton.

## FARIES IN TOWN.

One Man Arrested Charged With Running a Shell Game.

Yesterday was a good day for fakers in Newport News and they succeeded in "gulling" some people. The fakirs came here with the hope of doing a good business and some got in their work. Patrolman C. B. Crawford was detailed by Chief of Police S. J. Harwood to look out for green goods men and their ken. The officer made one arrest, taking into custody a man giving the name of Heck, for running a shell game on Twenty-third street. Officer Crawford ran across the man early in the afternoon. After watching him manipulate the shells and "dups," several persons the patrolman arrested Heck. The man resisted and he was assisted by several bystanders, who are supposed to have been pals. The policeman blew his whistle. A Norfolk officer who happened to be passing along the street heard him and went to Officer Crawford's assistance. Heck was arrested and taken to the city jail. He was admitted to bail an hour or so later.

## Drew Their Revolvers.

The surging mass of humanity that moved up and down Washington avenue yesterday kept the policemen busy. Several patrolmen were stationed on the street where there was considerable drunkenness there was very little disorder. Yesterday afternoon Policemen C. B. Crawford and J. A. Mitchell arrested a private in a Richmond military company for disorderly conduct. The man resisted and he was supported by several of his comrades who threatened to take him away from the patrolman. The men followed close behind. At the corner of Twenty-fifth street and Washington avenue an attempt was made to take the soldier from the officers. Sergeant J. F. Reynolds, and Policemen C. B. Crawford, N. T. Madory and B. J. O'Hara went to the assistance of the other officers. The soldiers threatened to use their bayonets if their comrades was not released, claiming that a policeman had no right to arrest a man in uniform unless on the charge of murder or assault. Sergeant Reynolds and Policemen O'Hara drew their guns and warned the crowd not to touch the man. The man was taken to jail and afterwards released from custody by Justice B. B. Semmes.

## RICHMOND NEWS AND GOS-IP.

Druggists Examined by the State Board of Pharmacy.

(Special to the Daily Press.)  
RICHMOND, Va., March 24.—The town of Richmond is almost deserted today, the twin launching of Newport News having drawn thousands of her citizens down to the sea side.

The Chesapeake & Ohio railway ran nine trains at that point this morning, constituting an aggregate of ninety-one coaches. It is estimated that 9,100 people made the trip, and more than a thousand others who desired to attend could not be accommodated.

Captain W. H. Childress, a pioneer resident of the eastern portion of Richmond, died today at 12 o'clock, aged 72 years. For twenty years he had been employed on James river in the service of the United States government, and that he has five children and many grand children.

Richard Rowe, a well known resident of Henrico county, went to his home last night, after over-indulging in liquor, and assaulted his wife, beating her severely. This morning Rowe was arrested and locked up in the county jail, no one being willing to go his bail.

Much interest is felt here in the effort which is on foot to erect a compressed air plant, mention of which has heretofore been made in these dispatches. It is expected it will prove of much value to Richmond.

The municipal primary election having been concluded, the people are now beginning to look forward to the spring election when a new mayor and a new House of Representatives from this section will be elected. It is stated that Capt. Geo. D. Wise has determined to oppose Capt. John Lamb, the incumbent, and that he has some show to win.

The Board of Pharmacy of Virginia today granted certificates as registered pharmacists to Harry A. Arrington and W. E. Snellings, Jr., of Norfolk; P. T. Mears, of Kershfield, and W. D. Clarke, of Portsmouth, and J. W. Powell, of Newport News.

## The Plunger.

Manager Booker informs the theatre going public that he has secured Oliver Byron to play his new piece, "The Plunger," and will appear at every performance.

## FEAST AT OLD POINT

Brilliant Affair at the Chamberlin Yesterday.

SPEAKERS WAX ELOQUENT

Two Governors Respond to Toasts, Each Praising His Own State. A Beautiful Tribute to Kentucky.

The naval world's greatest event closed with a brilliant banquet at the Chamberlin Hotel. After the vessels were launched the distinguished guests who came down from Washington on the steamer Newport News were given an opportunity to inspect the magnificent plant, many of the officers and many of the officers were shown through the various departments, manifesting interest in the country's greatness, shipbuilding industry. At 1:30 o'clock the Newport News sailed for Old Point. The rain was made at thirty minutes. Mr. C. B. Crawford, president of the Newport News shipbuilding and dry dock company, gave the toast, "The Chamberlin Hotel, where covers had been laid for 700 guests. The banquet was given in the ball room, and when the doors were swung open the spacious hall presented a scene of brilliancy. Peopled about the large white pillars and arches were the Stars and Stripes, state flags of Virginia and Kentucky, and the colors of the navy. The combination of colors presented a pleasing picture to the eye. When the guests were seated there was not a vacant chair. The dining hall then presented a dazzling scene. There were many of Virginia and Kentucky's fairest daughters, flanking their warm, but happy faces, surrounded by admirals, commodores, colonels, captains and lieutenants.



GOVERNOR BRADLEY.

With their gilded uniforms glimmering in the dazzling electric lights. At the northern end of the hall a platform had been erected for the guests of honor, which included Governor J. H. Rogers, of Virginia; Governor W. O. Bradley, of Kentucky; United States Senator Thomas S. Martin, of Virginia; Mr. M. B. Ingalls, president of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad; Congressman R. S. Hopkins, of Illinois; United States Senator J. L. Rawlins, of Utah; Admiral Matthews and Commodore Watkins and Commodore McNaughton, U. S. N. President Orcutt occupied the seat in the center of the platform. It was not long after the guests were seated that the popping and fizzing of champagne bottles mingled with the rattle of dishes and the hum of voices. One hour was spent around the festal board while the elegant collation was served in courses. Then Mr. Orcutt arose and a storm of hand clapping. Briefly he thanked the guests for the pleasure the shipbuilding company expressed the pleasure he felt in having so many guests to honor the company's greatest achievement. This brought forth another wave of applause. Then, as toastmaster for the occasion, Mr. Orcutt called on the guests to rise and drink a toast to the President of the United States. This done, Congressman Hopkins, of Illinois, being called on to respond to the toast, "Our President." The speaker was in good voice. In part, he said:

"There is no man who has occupied the position of President of the United States I would more willingly respond to than that great American, William McKinley. (Great applause.) The accident of birth has even given our country their rulers. Some have developed their country; but most of them were despicable characters. In this country, thank God, are different. By the endowments of the people we choose our rulers."



GOVERNOR TYLER.

er. The present chief executive is a typical American. His life has been an open book and he stands close to the people. This was well illustrated the other day, when Congress unanimously voted to place money at his disposal to carry out Americanism. I thank God we have as President a man who is so well rounded and complete." (Applause.)

"The Navy" was the next toast. Senator Rawlins responded in a brief speech, declaring that a strong navy was not only a guarantee of peace, but a comforting thing to the people of war. Governor Tyler responded to the next toast, "Old Dominion."

When he arose he was greeted with deafening applause that lasted for several minutes, and his excellency was compelled to bow his acknowledgments. Virginia's chief magistrate, at

(Continued on fourth page.)